



Senate Committee on University Planning

Academic Unit Review Summary: DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS

Site Visit	April 7-8, 2015
Informal Response to Planning	June 23, 2015
Formal Response to Planning	November 25, 2015
Implementation Update	May 4, 2017
Midterm Review	2018-19

Review Team Members:

- Dr. Lea Stirling, Classics, University of Manitoba (Chair of Review Team)
- Dr. Carol Merriam, Classics, Brock University
- Dr. Stephen Duffy, Chemistry and Biochemistry, Mount Allison University

Recommendations of the Academic Unit Review

1. It is imperative that the membership of the department not dip below three full-time members. The current membership has allowed the department to create a very tight cycle of courses that gives students enough to graduate and pursue further options. If one of the current three positions is lost, then the program would be unsustainable; certainly all senior language instruction would be lost, and Mount Allison Classics students would not be able to pursue graduate study in Classics. With regard to this, it is heartening that the university has committed to a full-time replacement for an upcoming leave.
2. If the university is in a position to expand the faculty complement of the institution or replace a member who retires or resigns from elsewhere in the university, Classics can make a good case for the addition of a fourth member, to ease the pressure on the current faculty members.
3. Some means should be found to provide for archaeological lab space for teaching and research. In the short term, access to a space with tables and a sink would facilitate teaching hands-on or simulated aspects of teaching in the Archaeological Methods course (CLAS 2501, *Introduction to Archaeology*), such as a sandbox excavation. Such a space would also be good for hands-on teaching with replica ceramics recently purchased by the department to support the Classical archaeology courses (CLAS 3601; CLAS 3611; CLAS 3701; CLAS 3711). The department hopes to export fragments of ancient pottery from Italy for educational purposes (with the appropriate permits from the Italian government). Storage facilities for replicas and ancient ceramics would eventually be desirable in a lab space. With some computing capacity, an archaeology lab could also be used for archaeological computing (maps, databases, GIS, etc.) and for collaborative digital research by department members. Thus, such a space would support existing courses, student research, the integration of research and teaching, and possible future collaboration between department members. Perhaps space for these activities can be found in existing teaching facilities.

4. It is clear that the university will be forced to do something about Hart Hall at some point in the (not-too-distant) future. If the Classics department is required to move to a different building, several things should be kept in mind:
 - a) The retention of the Classics reading room, funded by the Crake Foundation, is crucial to the work of the department. It is the centre of departmental life for students in the program. The availability of resources to support their research and course work is invaluable, and the space to work together and build a cohort aids students in progressing through their programs.
 - b) The provision of laboratory space for archaeological teaching and research, as noted above.
 - c) The involvement of the members of the department in the planning of their new space and the move.

5. The current carefully choreographed rotation of courses is successful in offering regular courses in all three subfields of Classics. Further possibility for offering specialized courses could be created by reducing the chronological surveys of Greek and Roman Archaeology from the current format of two one-term courses each for Greece and Rome to a single one-term course for each survey. Thus, Greek archaeology from the Bronze Age to the Hellenistic period and Roman Archaeology from the Etruscans to Constantine would each be covered in one term, as is typical at many Canadian universities. The chronological survey course could run in the first term, with a more specialized course, say on the archaeology of Magna Graecia or Pompeii, to follow in the winter term. Developing a course on Pompeii is particularly attractive because of Mount Allison University's research project there (and we add that courses on Pompeii are very successful in other universities).